



## Tucson Observer Archives

### G/L Marriage Supporters Picket Clinton Speech



SAN DIEGO, California (Observer Update) - More than 200 opponents of Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage in California, demonstrated in front of a San Diego hotel during a speech by former President Bill Clinton, Sunday, Feb. 15, 365Gay.com reported.

LGBT rights activists have been urging a boycott of the Manchester Grand Hyatt over its owner, Douglas Manchester's contribution of \$125,000 to the Proposition 8 campaign.

Rights groups, San Diego City Councilman Todd Gloria, labor leader Lorena Gonzalez and six others sent Clinton a letter, urging him to cancel his appearance at the annual convention of the International Franchise Association on Sunday.

A spokesperson for the former President said prior to the demonstration that Clinton planned to honor his commitment to give the speech.

Several groups have canceled conventions at the hotel - costing Manchester's facility an estimated \$2 million.

Among those who bailed out of meeting at the hotel are conventions for the International Foundation of Employee Benefits, the San Diego Board of Realtors, the American Assn. of Law Schools and the California Nurses Association.

The California State Bar Association is under pressure to cancel its annual convention at the hotel.

Clinton has a mixed record on LGBT issues. He signed the federal Defense of Marriage Act which bars the US government from recognizing same-sex couples, saying at the time he saw it as a way of stopping a proposed amendment to the US

Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Clinton also signed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which bans Gays from serving openly in the military. He said that the bill was a compromise to an all-out ban on Gays that would result in a witch hunt of homosexuals in the armed forces.

Protesters marched in front of the hotel shouting for equality. About a dozen San Diego police officers were on the scene, but reported no incidents.

The California Supreme Court will hear arguments next month that the vote for Prop 8 was unconstitutional.

NEW YORK CITY, New York (Observer Update) Same-sex couples seeking to wed showed up at marriage license counters nationwide Thursday (Feb. 12) to highlight a right they don't have in 48 states, part of an annual protest that took on renewed urgency given recent election setbacks.

In San Francisco, where same-sex marriage was legal for nearly five months last year before California voters approved a ban, many couples who came to City Hall had already tied the knot but wanted to express their gratitude and to show they're still part of the fight. "All of our marriages are under the cloud of Proposition 8," said Stuart Gaffney, 45, referring to California's ballot initiative banning Gay marriage. "Equality is an unfinished business in California."

In Las Vegas, couples gathered outside the downtown marriage bureau with signs that read "Don't hate my love" and "No laws on love." In New York, activists wore signs that said "Just Not Married." They were turned away empty-handed in both places when they

### Bill Would Allow Gays And Lesbians To Sponsor Foreign Partners

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Legislation was re-introduced in Congress Thursday (Feb. 12) that would allow Americans in a same-sex relationship to sponsor their "permanent partners" for legal residency in the United States, a right currently afforded only to opposite-sex couples under immigration law.

The Uniting American Families Act (H.R. 1024) was filed in the House by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY). Nadler has been fighting for the bill for nearly eight years. With Democrats now in Control of the Congress and the White House Nadler said Thursday he is hopeful the measure will become law. "In 2009, we should be ready as a society to acknowledge that stable American families come in all varieties," said Nadler. "We in fact strengthen our communities - and our nation - by encouraging loving couples and families to stay together and live as cohesive units. Any committed couple deserves the potential to form a life and a family together - this is a basic human right - and whether that couple is Gay or straight should be irrelevant. Gay and Lesbian Americans in loving, committed relationships deserve the same rights as everyone else."

Because the U.S. does not legally recognize same-sex couples and their children as families, many same-sex bi-national couples are torn apart when one partner lives in the United States. The Uniting American Families Act would add the term "or permanent partner" to those sections of the Immigration and Naturalization Act that apply to legally married couples. "Permanent partner" is described as an adult who is in a committed, intimate

relationship with another adult in "which both parties intend a lifelong commitment." The legislation would afford equal immigration benefits to permanent partnerships - but would also apply the same restrictions and enforcement standards.

For example if a person were found to have entered into a fraudulent permanent partnership for the purposes of obtaining a visa for another person, they would be subject to the same five year maximum imprisonment, or \$250,000 maximum fine, or both, as a person who contracts a fraudulent marriage would.



Representative Jerrold Nadler

At least 16 countries currently allow residents to sponsor same-sex permanent partners for legal immigration, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### Nationwide Protests Put Human Face On G/L Marriage Battle

asked for marriage licenses. "We could get married in Massachusetts or Connecticut, but we'll wait a little and see what happens in New York," Matt Flanders, 37, of Brooklyn, said after he and his partner, Will Jennings, 29, participated in the protest in Manhattan. "It's a matter of principle. This is our home, and we should be able to get married where we live, where our friends are."

The protests around Valentine's Day, part of the 12th annual Freedom to Marry Day, were considered especially important this year because they come after the November passage of Proposition 8. The measure has prompted protests, lawsuits and questions about the direction of the Gay rights movement.

"A lot of people feel a sense of determination and regret over having been too complacent or quiet before, so there is a commitment to, 'Never again, we have to take action,'" said Evan Wolfson, a civil rights lawyer who conceived Freedom to Marry Day. "In that sense, California was a terrific energizer and wake-up call."

Currently, Gay marriage is legal only in Massachusetts and Connecticut, while 30 states have Gay marriage bans in their constitutions. Gay rights activists are pressing lawmakers in New Jersey, New York and Vermont to take up bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states.

Jennifer Pizer, director of the marriage project at Gay rights legal group Lambda Legal, said the disappointing outcome of the California election has created momentum in other parts of the country.

Hawaii's House of Representatives, for example, voted 33-17 Thursday (Feb. 12) to allow same-sex civil unions. The legislation now goes before the state's Senate Judiciary Committee, where the vote is split among six senators, with one undecided. A tie vote would kill the civil union measure for the year.

In Utah, where a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2004 prohibits same-sex unions, five Gay and

Continued On Page Five

# UPDATE

## Man To Man Seminars Feb. 21 & 22

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A Free Weekend retreat for Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Men will be held this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 21-22, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid.

Join the Tucson Man2Man Seminars! You are invited to attend a two-day seminar providing education on sexuality and intimacy between men in a very Social Environment. All men who have sex with men or are attracted to men, and are 18 or older are invited.

All participants will receive a \$50 gift card, a digital camera and other incentives! For more information, contact Cesar Egurrola (520) 628-7223.

## Desert Voices WOWs SRO Audience At Annual Cabaret

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Wow! ... The Chorus was in fine, fine form! ...The best yet! ...Thanks for that wild, glorious production! ...A real pleasure to be among the sold-out crowd!"

It was standing room only at the Historic Y in Tucson on February 7th as Desert Voices Chorus brought the house down with a solid musical comedy performance in their 20th Season Cabaret, "In the Basement". Special Guest Stars, Lisa Otey and Diane Van Deurzen joined with Desert Voices for a raucous, risqué and thoroughly entertaining musical event. Silent Auction bidding was heavy on the more than 150 items donated to Desert Voices for their only fundraising event of the Season. Appetizers and spirits from Carrabba's Italian Grille, Barefoot Wine and Woody's Bar perfectly complemented the electric atmosphere of the concert.

Thanks to Artistic Director, Chris Tackett, musical numbers were inspiring and demonstrated the range and diversity of performance so prevalent in all Desert Voices' Concerts. Otey and Van Deurzen contributed the right touch of raw emotion, timely comedy and up-

tempo renditions that consistently elicited an enthusiastic response from the sold-out house. The final concerts of the Season will be on April 18, 7:30 p.m. and April 19, 3:00 p.m. at the Proscenium Theatre, Pima Community College, West Campus. "Out and Proud" celebrates 20 years of Desert Voices concerts with a retrospective featuring musical selections celebrating 25 years of GALA choruses. Namoli Brennet returns for her second special guest appearance of Desert Voices 20th. Season. Tickets are still available but selling quickly as this will be the last chance to catch Desert Voices during what has been a phenomenal Concert Season.

For tickets, call: (520) 791-9662 or visit their website: desertvoices.org.

## Around The Old Pueblo

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A big Fundraiser, on Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:00 p.m., for Mister King of the Desert USofA MI, Anson Reign, at Coyote Moon Pub, 915 W. Prince Road. Arizona's best drag and burlesque talent under one roof! Join Boys R Us, Cabaret Boheme, Koyote Kings, Reigning Men Drag Kings of Phoenix, and more as they come together to help the current reigning Mister King of the Desert USofA Male Illusionist, Anson Reign, and raise money to travel to the national Mister USofA MI Pageant in Oklahoma City this March. Raffles, surprises, and drink specials all night long!

For more information, call (480) 242-0827 or go online to myspace.com/ansonreign. ...

On Sunday, Feb. 22, 2:00 p.m., at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. 1st St., Wingspan's Senior Pride is proud to present as part of the Colorful Life Series, Maurice Grossman.

Artist, teacher, father, lover, award winner, world traveler, activist, Maurice will share moments of the journey he calls life, some smooth places and a few bumps. At 81, he's still gaily bouncing around. Come and enjoy his story! Seniors, Juniors, Allies. Everyone welcome!

For more information, contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779.

## SAAF Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Less than 1/3 of people who die in the U.S. each year have a will, and many of those wills are defective. Find out how a will can benefit YOU and the people YOU care about!

The public is invited to attend a FREE Write A Will Workshop at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), 375 S. Euclid, 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 28.

The workshop will address the importance of writing a will, the legal aspects of a will, and the charitable giving opportunities available through wills. The workshop will be led by attorney Doug Newman, P.C. of Douglas J. Newman, P.C. Attorneys at Law. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Michele Bart at (520) 628-7223.

Who should come? Anyone interested in a "hands on" session about making or updating a will, how to protect even the most modest estate, and how to ensure that your wishes are known and respected. Workshop format: The workshop is a 60-90 minute interactive session that includes a question and answer component and a complementary workbook, "A Guide to Planning Your Will or Trust" for recording important information regarding the preparation of your will. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. ...

SAAF is asking for the community's support in sending an official statement to President Obama requesting the development of a National AIDS Strategy and reallocation of funding for HIV/AIDS within the first 100 days of the new administration.

To learn more about this effort or to add your name to the list of Southern Arizona supporters, please visit saaf.org. Supporting this very critical advocacy effort is easy and sends the message that we need action now for this 28- year public health crisis that continues to see HIV infection rates rise while HIV testing declines. ...

## V-Day Film: What I Want My Words To Do To You, Feb. 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Women's Resource Center in collaboration with the Vagina Warriors presents "What I Want My Words To Do To You," Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Gallagher Theater, University of Arizona.

The film documents both the wrenching personal journeys undertaken by female inmates of a high security prison in New York. Through a series of exercises and discussions with Vagina Monologues creator, Eve Ensler, the women find the words that tell their own stories, and the power of those words to move the outside world. Admission: \$3 minimum donation.

For more information, call Tiffany Tedesco, (520) 621-3919.

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or [volcoord@saaf.org](mailto:volcoord@saaf.org)



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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# Tucson's Freedom To Marry Day Event Has A Surprise

TUCSON (Observer Update) - (Editor's Note - What follows is the article from the Feb. 13 edition of the Arizona Daily Star by reporter Kim Smith on the Freedom to Marry Day Event in Tucson that took place Thursday, Feb. 12 and initially posted on the Observer blog.)

A Lesbian couple who decided to take part in a 22-state rally supporting same-sex marriage shocked participants Thursday when they obtained a marriage license from the Pima County Clerk of the Court's Office. Patti Noland, clerk of the court, said the women filled out the form, which is preprinted to state the groom is "male" and the bride is "female." They then swore to the accuracy of the form.

Unlike a male couple that changed the wording of the document to state the bride was "male," the two women left that part of the application unchanged. However, one of the organizers of the event, John Allard of Marriage Equality USA, said the women told the clerk's office they were only swearing to the information they filled in, not the preprinted form itself. "They were told 'that's not a problem,'" Allard said, noting the women clearly looked like women.

On Thursday, same-sex couples in 22 states and 30 cities tried to obtain marriage licenses and then held protests afterward, Allard said. "It was to call attention to the fact that millions of couples across the country, because they are the same sex, are denied marriages and the 1,138 rights only conveyed through marriage," Allard said. Last year Arizona voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as solely between one man and one woman. In effect, the amendment banned Gay marriage. Such unions were already prohibited in state

statute, but the law was seen as vulnerable to change.

Allard, who is co-leader of the Arizona chapter of Marriage Equality USA, said the women who obtained their license weren't expected to participate in the event - two men were. The women "got caught up in the moment." When the women announced they had successfully obtained their license, Allard said, "It was surprising. It was exciting and it was exhilarating."

Marriage Equality has already gotten in touch with the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights for assistance in helping the women defend their right to get married, Allard said.

Buck Bannister said he and his partner of 11 years, Michael Koch, knew their attempt to get a marriage license wasn't going to be successful. Their application was rejected because they scratched out "female" and wrote in "male" for the bride, Bannister said. When the women were successful, they were "elated," Bannister said. "A lot of us were tearing up even though it's going to be a long fight through the courts," Bannister said.

Noland said various media outlets informed her ahead of time that a protest was going to be held and that same-sex couples might be applying for licenses. Still, Noland said her clerks do not ask about a couple's gender when they apply for a marriage certificate. "It doesn't matter one way or another. If they fill out the form and swear it's true and correct, we'll issue the marriage license," Noland said. The women could face charges of fraudulent schemes and practices, a Class 5 felony. Whether criminal charges should be filed is in

"someone else's hands," Noland said.

Jason Cianciotto, executive director for Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, said regardless of how the women came to get their license, "for a split second the couple got to feel what heterosexual couples take for granted." ...

(H/T Buck Bannister with Rainbow Foot Soldiers.com)

There was an unexpected turn of events at the Freedom to Marry Day counter action in Tucson Arizona. Two couples entered the Superior Court building to request marriage licenses. The couples, one male and one female, went to separate clerks.

The male couple were told that if they changed "female" to "male" on the form it would be invalid. Questioning the clerk they were told that if they left the female part intact they could issue the license but they would have to swear an oath that "all information contained on the form is true" and that any incorrect or misleading information would be grounds for perjury. Since they would not commit perjury, the license was denied.

Simultaneously a Lesbian couple at a separate clerk requested a license and were told that if they swore the oath they would be "attesting to the information you have provided on the form." Since they had not written the genders they submitted the form and the license was issued to them. The issuance came as a complete surprise and shock to those assembled and seemed to concern the police present who gathered outside the door to the office and shortly ordered the gathering crowd of supporters and reporters to clear away from the front of the building.

Calls were made by Denise Heap who helped organize the event to Marriage Equality USA to request information and direction. It is unclear at this point whether the license will stand and after the male couple offered to return to get one as well using the same information given to the Lesbian couple, the legal experts cautioned against it until the legality of whether signing the form could be determined.

The entire episode was shocking, especially considering the Lesbian couple had not originally been scheduled to be part of the event but volunteered at the last moment. The two women, Theresa and Sheri, have been together for two years. UPDATE: Clerk of Court claims that the couple lied about both being women and that the license was issued as a result of "fraud." This is not true. Michael and I were being denied a license at the same time two windows away. Originally the couple filled out a form with the same information we did by scratching out the gender portion. Then they returned for a second form that they filled out without the scratch out. Neither appear to be a man and they clearly told the clerk they were both female and she issued the license with her supervisor watching.

Also, Marriage Equality USA has consulted a local family lawyer who says that the license application in Pima County is not legal as the statute does not require someone to swear to their gender. Therefore, the license should be valid because the form exceeds the statute laying out how the form should be worded.



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# Wanda Sykes To Entertain At White House Dinner

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Lesbian comedian Wanda Sykes, who came out publicly during an anti-Proposition 8 rally in Las Vegas in November, has been chosen to perform at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner May 9. Past entertainers at the prestigious affair have included Stephen Colbert and Rich Little.



Wanda Sykes

President himself included.

As an out Lesbian, Sykes is a pioneer among performers who have had the opportunity to entertain such a highly influential political audience, reported [advocate.com](http://advocate.com).

Currently acting on the popular sitcom *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, Sykes is both "scared" and "very excited" about the opportunity to entertain President Barack Obama and some 2,000 other notable personalities, according to the Associated Press. With the dinner still a few months off, Sykes will be watching President Obama's every move, looking for inspiration for her act. "I'm not rooting against him at all, because, especially in this economy and everything, we need him to succeed," she explains. "But there's gonna be some incidents and missteps, like we saw with the whole tax thing." And it will be those "missteps" that will provide Sykes with the material needed to "poke fun" at the new administration, the

# LGBT Rights Bills Advance In The West

HONOLULU, Hawaii (Observer Update) - Hawaii's house of representatives passed a civil unions bill by a 33-17 vote. If passed by the state senate, it would allow same-sex couples access to a legal union in the state. The unions would offer the couples the same state rights and benefits afforded to married couples.

Upon receiving the news that the civil union bill was passed by the house, Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese expressed HRC's support in a press release, stating, "Human Rights Campaign congratulates Hawaii's house of representatives for recognizing that all couples and all families deserve basic rights and protections. This legislation is simply about moving closer to equality for all residents of Hawaii."

The bill now moves to the senate. Hawaii currently allows Gay couples to enter into reciprocal beneficiary relationships and receive limited rights and benefits, but the state offers nothing equivalent to marriage. ...

Meanwhile, three LGBT rights bills, all sponsored by Salt Lake City Democrats, cleared legislative hurdles in Utah's Legislature. The measures, considered long shots, have made it out of the sometimes-bill-blocking House Rules Committee and scored public hearings.

Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck's bill that would allow unmarried couples, including Gay and Lesbian partners, to adopt and foster children in Utah - will be debated Tuesday before the House Health and Human Services Committee. And the two bills that remain in Equality Utah's four-bill Common Ground Initiative, a legislative push for Gay-rights, also are slated for committee hearings.

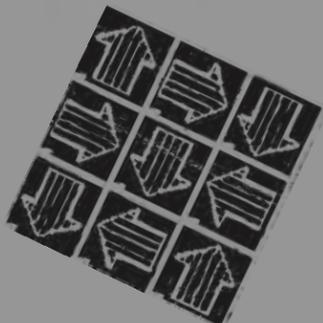
Rep. Christine Johnson's bill, goes to the House Business and Labor Committee on Tuesday. The bill would make it illegal to fire or evict someone for being Gay or Transgender. The House Judiciary Committee plans to review Rep. Jennifer Seelig's bill that would allow unmarried cohabiting adults to sign declarations of "joint support" and gain rights of inheritance and emergency medical-decision making.

"It's wonderful," Seelig said Friday. "I look forward to the discussion in committee." Gay-rights efforts have come under heavy attack this year from opponents, who worry that granting rights to same-sex couples could put Utah on a "slippery slope" toward legalizing Gay marriage. Advocates for Gay and Transgender Utahns counter that Utah's constitutional amendment Advertisement banning Gay unions would bar that from happening.

Her bill would preserve the preference given to married couples in matters of adoption and foster care, but allow unmarried couples to adopt when the biological parents consent or the children are in state custody. Current Utah law allows single adults - Gay or straight - to adopt and foster children. House Rules Chairman Ben Ferry, R-Corinne, said he thought Chavez-Houck's bill had been in Rules long enough and deserved to go to a committee for a hearing. ...

In New Mexico's Legislature in Santa Fe, a proposal allowing domestic partnerships cleared its first hurdle in the Legislature when it narrowly won approval in a Senate committee. The Public Affairs Committee endorsed the measure on a 5-to-4 vote and sent the proposal to another panel for consideration.

The bill will head to the full Senate for debate if it is approved by the Judiciary Committee. The legislation would give certain unmarried couples - homosexual or heterosexual - the same legal protections and benefits as married couples. "I really believe this is a fundamental civil rights issue," said Sen. Eric Griego, D-Albuquerque. Opponents contended the measure would in effect legally recognize Gay marriage.



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# G/L Marriage Battle

Continued from Page One

Lesbian couples applied for marriage licenses in Salt Lake City on Thursday (Feb. 12). County Clerk Sherrie Swensen said she could recall only one other Gay couple asking to get married over the last 18 years.

"So why does our own government try to stop that from happening? Why does our own government try to stop us from trying to take care of each other?"

In Maine and Minnesota on Thursday (Feb. 12), dozens of proponents of Gay marriage gathered outside the statehouses to lobby for bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states. Under a black and white banner that read "Legalize Love," Minnesota lawmakers vowed to push the bill as far as they can.

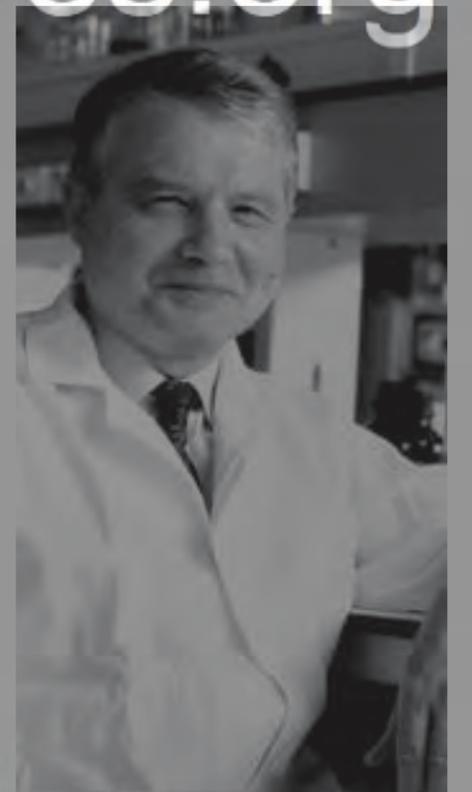
Troy Smith, 41, and his partner of six years, Justin Gibson, 26, were among the 15 couples waiting with tourists outside the marriage bureau in downtown Las Vegas. Smith, a coordinator at a local wedding chapel, said he's constantly faced with the reality of Nevada's constitutional ban on Gay marriage. "I sell it every day, but I can't buy it myself," he said, adding that he often sees couples rushing to the altar after knowing each other for hours. "It just about breaks my heart. It's not fair."

State Sen. Scott Dibble, a Minneapolis Democrat who is one of the few openly Gay members of the Legislature, said the country's economic woes showed the need for couples to support each other. But Gay couples can't get many of the benefits of marriage that might make things easier, he said. "Those with strong families more than anyone are going to be able to rely on each other," Dibble said.

The California Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments next month on whether to uphold Proposition 8 and on the validity of the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages sanctioned in the state between June and November. The court could render a decision as early as June.

## Doctor Who Helped Discover HIV Says Race For Cure Replaced Prevention Push

CALGARY, Alberta (Observer Update) When Dr. Luc Montagnier painstakingly teased out the source of the new mysterious AIDS syndrome in a Paris laboratory 25 years ago, the very concept of the disease sparked panic in many people, reported 365Gay.com. But people have become complacent and infections are on the rise, even in many developed countries, because they trust science will develop a vaccine or cure that in reality may be many years away, Montagnier said.



Dr. Luc Montagnier

"It seems that the young generation has forgotten about prevention, because they think there are cures for HIV, that it's no big deal," the Nobel Prize winner said after giving a talk in Calgary. "But it is, because HIV treatment is very heavy, has to be kept for the rest of their lives, and if they are young this is really a burden."

The rush for a cure, while important, should never overshadow the push for prevention, said Montagnier, who shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine with Françoise Barre-Sinoussi for identifying the virus that causes AIDS. He disputes the idea that modern medicine makes AIDS a controllable disease. While a cocktail of drugs can keep people alive for decades, the punishing side effects can make life miserable, painful or even cause death, he added. "In

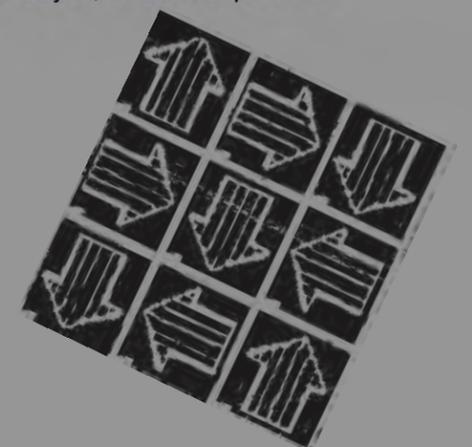
the long-term they may die not of AIDS, but of a side effect: cardiovascular, obesity and hypertension, brain disease," he said.

## HIV+ Woman Denied Surgery

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin (Observer Update) - A 35-year-old Wisconsin woman filed a federal lawsuit against her doctor, health insurance company, and a regional clinical stemming from the refusal by her doctor to perform surgery to remove her gallbladder solely because she is HIV-positive, reported HIV Plus Magazine.

remains a major problem for people living with HIV," Peter Kimball, director of the legal services program at the AIDS center, told the The Reporter, a Fond du Lac newspaper. "Dr. Cahee's actions fly in the face of ethical behavior for a medical professional," Scott Schoettes, staff attorney with Lambda Legal's HIV Project, told The Reporter.

Rose experienced health problems with her gallbladder while incarcerated at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution in Fond du Lac, Wis., according to the lawsuit. Her doctor referred her to Cahee to have her gallbladder removed, but he refused to perform the surgery because of her positive HIV serostatus. A surgeon at a difference health center later performed the surgery. Rose's case is supported by the groups Lambda Legal and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.



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**POLITICS 2009**

by Mark R. Kerr

**Written Not At Taxpayer Expense**

Despite the potential budgetary problems facing most of the state government's in this country, it is interesting how some legislative bodies are still managing to deal with other issues, especially those of concern to readers of this publication.

Recently, Hawaii's House of Representatives approved a measure giving legal and governmental recognition, as a civil union, to committed, same-sex couples and their families and now its Senate is considering the bill.

Unwed couples in Colorado could share some of the same legal benefits and estate-planning tools as married couples under a bill, being considered in the Colorado Legislature, surviving a GOP-led effort to beat back new rights for Lesbian and Gay partners.

New Mexico has taken a big step towards this with the approval of a bill creating a domestic partners registry for the state with full rights and benefits and Utah, Brigham Young land is considering bills of concern dealing with adoption and rights as well.

In Arizona, its another story with the monetary mucking about. More tax dollars wasted while the Republican led state House and Senate consider more ways to flush the future down the toilet by holding on to their political theories which have been proven to be failures with the current state of the country's overall economic affairs.

While much needed services and programs will end due to their budgetary axe, measures dealing with character, guns and ensuring prisoners from Gitmo and the Bush Crime Family don't come to the state are taken up.

So what's a state to do. Now Republican Governor Jan Brewer suggested holding a special election so that the people can vote on a measure to "temporarily" raise the sales tax and allow the state Legislature to avoid funding programs mandated by the voters themselves, who approved ballot measures creating and funding these programs.

Right, spend more than a million dollars, that isn't there, so that a small percentage will cast a vote, against such a measure.

A novel thought, having Arizona's Legislature actually do their job, as they were sworn in to the first Monday this past January when the 49th Session started, as they did in 1983 when the state's economy was in trouble then as well.

There is a problem, Arizona has a Legislative super-majority requirement in the Constitution, put on the ballot by Legislative Republicans in 1992 and sold "as a bill of goods" to the gullible public, requiring a two-third's vote of each chamber to raise revenue.

With that, poor Jan and the elephantine Legislative leadership is stuck, swallow their pride and do the job they were elected to do and have taken a legal oath, or grasp desperately at their "Reaganesque" theoretical straws.

Online, Arizona's Legislature can be found at azleg.gov or for those without Internet access, to reach their Legislators call (800) 352-8404. Let them know, especially the "leadership" in both chambers to invest in the state's future

and get the work done now!

Another message can be sent this year to Arizona's Legislature by electing progressive, pragmatic candidates to city and town council's across the state.

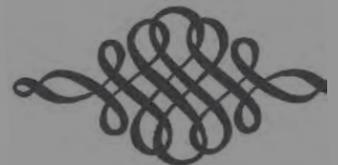
In Pima County, the town of Marana (marana.com), the City of South Tucson (southtucson.org), the town of Sahuarita (ci.sahuarita.az.us) and the City of Tucson (www.tucsonaz.gov) are holding Council elections this year and its behooves the populace, especially the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community to get involved in these elections, with the first step being voting.

The towns of Marana, Sahuarita and the City of South Tucson's primary elections will be held on Tuesday, March 10 and the general election on Tuesday, May 19, Tucson's being held on Tuesday, September 15 and its general Tuesday, November 10.

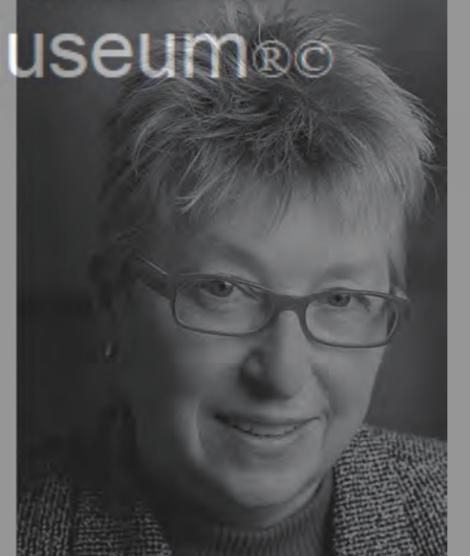
There are solid, pragmatic, progressive, Democratic candidates running to serve and the community needs to return the favor by casting their respective votes for these individuals.

For the Sahuarita Town Council, there is Rosanna Gabaldon. In the City of South Tucson, Pete Tadeo and Charlie Salaz. Kelle Maslyn is running for the Marana Town Council. As previously reported in this column and publication, Tucson Ward 3 Councilmember Karin Uhlich (karin2009.com) is running for another term in office and Ward 6 Councilmember Nina Trasoff (trasofffortucson.com) has announced her intentions to run again as well.

Send two messages, one directly to the Arizona Legislature and one through the ballot box this year that it is time to serve the people, not the special interests, by meeting the needs of the state and its populace need, not by grasping at "Reaganesque theoretical straws."



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# COMMENTARY...

by Paul Krugman

## Decade At Bernie's

By now everyone knows the sad tale of Bernard Madoff's duped investors. They looked at their statements and thought they were rich. But then, one day, they discovered to their horror that their supposed wealth was a figment of someone else's imagination. Unfortunately, that's a pretty good metaphor for what happened to America as a whole in the first decade of the 21st century.

Last week the Federal Reserve released the results of the latest Survey of Consumer Finances, a triennial report on the assets and liabilities of American households. The bottom line is that there has been basically no wealth creation at all since the turn of the millennium: the net worth of the average American household, adjusted for inflation, is lower now than it was in 2001.

At one level this should come as no surprise. For most of the last decade America was a nation of borrowers and spenders, not savers. The personal savings rate dropped from 9 percent in the 1980s to 5 percent in the 1990s, to just 0.6 percent from 2005 to 2007, and household debt grew much faster than personal income. Why should we have expected our net worth to go up? Yet until very recently Americans believed they were getting richer, because they received statements saying that their houses and stock portfolios were appreciating in value faster than their debts were increasing. And if the belief of many Americans that they could count on capital gains forever sounds naïve, it's worth remembering just how many influential voices - notably in right-leaning publications like *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes* and *National Review* - promoted that belief, and ridiculed those who worried about low savings and high levels of debt.

Then reality struck, and it turned out that the worriers had been right all along. The surge in asset values had been an illusion - but the surge in debt had been all too real. So now we're in trouble - deeper trouble, I think, than most people realize even now. And I'm not just talking about the dwindling band of forecasters who still insist that the economy will snap back any day now. For this is a broad-based mess. Everyone talks about the problems of the banks, which are indeed in even worse shape than the rest of the system. But the banks aren't the only players with too much debt and too few assets; the same description applies to the private sector as a whole.

And as the great American economist Irving Fisher pointed out in the 1930s, the things people and companies do when they realize they

have too much debt tend to be self-defeating when everyone tries to do them at the same time. Attempts to sell assets and pay off debt deepen the plunge in asset prices, further reducing net worth. Attempts to save more translate into a collapse of consumer demand, deepening the economic slump.

Are policy makers ready to do what it takes to break this vicious circle? In principle, yes. Government officials understand the issue: we need to "contain what is a very damaging and potentially deflationary spiral," says Lawrence Summers, a top Obama economic adviser.

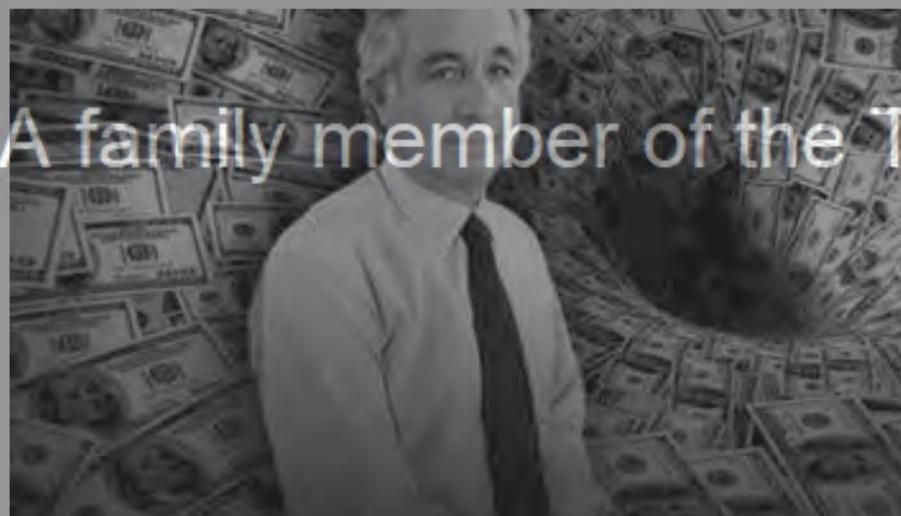
In practice, however, the policies currently on offer don't look adequate to the challenge. The fiscal stimulus plan, while it will certainly help, probably won't do more than mitigate the economic side effects of debt deflation. And the much-awaited announcement of the bank rescue plan left everyone confused rather than reassured.

There's hope that the bank rescue will eventually turn into something stronger. It has been interesting to watch the idea of temporary bank nationalization move from the fringe to mainstream acceptance, with even Republicans like Senator Lindsey Graham conceding that it may be necessary. But even if we eventually do what's needed on the bank front, that will solve only part of the problem.

If you want to see what it really takes to boot the economy out of a debt trap, look at the large public works program, otherwise known as World War II, that ended the Great Depression. The war didn't just lead to full employment. It also led to rapidly rising incomes and substantial inflation, all with virtually no borrowing by the private sector. By 1945 the government's debt had soared, but the ratio of private-sector debt to G.D.P. was only half what it had been in 1940. And this low level of private debt helped set the stage for the great postwar boom.

Since nothing like that is on the table, or seems likely to get on the table any time soon, it will take years for families and firms to work off the debt they ran up so blithely. The odds are that the legacy of our time of illusion - our decade at Bernie's - will be a long, painful slump.

(Paul Krugman is professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics and a regular columnist for *The New York Times*, from which this is reprinted.)



Master Investor "Duper", Bernard Madoff

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## LGBT Group Calls For Investigation Of Haggard's Church

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Truth Wins Out, a group that calls out antiGay and "ex-Gay" propaganda, is pushing for an investigation into Colorado's New Life Church after it was revealed the church paid to keep a male volunteer from publicly admitting an affair with its former minister, Ted Haggard, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reported.

Haggard left his job as pastor of the Colorado Springs-based New Life Church in 2006 after it was revealed he had had an affair and done drugs with a male prostitute, Mike Jones. More recently, Haggard admitted to having another Gay affair while serving as pastor, this time with a church volunteer. According to the AP, New Life's current senior pastor, Brady Boyd, said the church paid the man for counseling and college tuition, with one condition being that none of the parties discuss the relationship publicly. Truth Wins Out says the church is guilty of providing the man with "hush money."

"Authorities should investigate to ensure that this volunteer was not manipulated or coerced into silence,"

said Wayne Besen, Truth Wins Out's executive director, in a press release. "The leadership of New Life has little credibility and should not simply be taken at their word. At a minimum, Boyd should resign for using his position of power to pressure a vulnerable member of his congregation into silence."

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The Sun glides into Pisces this week and ramps up our overall mellowness. Go with the cosmic flow and let your intuition be your guide. Is there a chance that you will become too jello to hold a mold? Unlikely!

**SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)**  
 Queer Scorps are more creative than usual. And you can use this inspiration to not only create your own personal masterpieces but also to just kick back and have time wasting fun. But since this energy doesn't come around that often, try not to allow your best ideas to vanish into the vapors. Enlist the help of equally artistic folks and get a thing or two going before its gone.

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**  
 If your sixth sense is on overdrive, let it steer and drive with Sun in Pisces. There are things going on in the background that begin to grab your attention. Clear out the dust and the cobwebs so you can celebrate who you are and what you have become. Proud Rams also ache to give back to the community in any and every way now. Every way except with cold cash. Ahem.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)**  
 Are you planning a few get togethers when the Sun enters Pisces? If not, start to do so. Gay Archers find that there is no place like home. And not only that, home becomes an epicenter of activity. This can mean that a long delayed repair project gets underway or it can mean that pals show up to party. Hand them a hammer and try to do both.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**  
 Friends come to you from all corners this week and why not? Queer Bulls are social directors and know where all the hot spots are located. Gather your pride parade and start the march with Sun in Pisces. Not only can pals help you out, you can also extend a helping hand to those who need it. Be careful though if you are asked to apply two hands on any problem area.

**CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)**  
 Do you find that folks begin to really listen to you this week? Perhaps you are connecting with them on some higher, intuitive level. Whatever gets your message across, continue to send it out. Pink Caps are often not given credit for their fabulous opinions. Now you not only get credit, you can make it work for you in the long term. Hollywood, here you come!

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
 Pink Twins appear to be able to do no wrong around the office. Your career prospects brighten when Sun enters Pisces. Press and impress the big wigs and see if you can get one of them to support some of your great (but currently inert) ideas. The corporate sky is the limit and your door of opportunity is small. Forget the long lunches unless it is to grease a big cog.

**AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)**  
 You can continue to spend in your careless ways or you can use Sun in Pisces to re-calibrate your portfolio. Try and start to recoup some of your losses. Aqueerians are more prone to spend now and save later. It is now possible to do a bit of necessary research and change the pattern. Before you know it you can create a firmer foundation. Let the concrete dry first though...

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
 Spread your wings and travel now, Gay Crab. Opportunities abound for any Outward bound jaunts. If you have been feeling penned in and frustrated, you can flee your current scene and explore more refreshing venues. If money and time are tight, find ways to effect personal change and expand your vision in thrifty, short bursts. Anyone we know...?

**PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)**  
 Guppies are at one with the universe. Become the center of attention now that you possess incredible reserves of charisma and charm. Meet and greet and launch long planned projects now. Your world has no gravity and you can achieve anything that you set your mind to do. Will you squander it on fast company and cheap thrills? Oh we can only hope so!

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)**  
 Get to the core of any personal matter when the Sun enters Pisces. Proud Lions may be feeling stressed and frustrated with the current course of certain relationships. But these things are correctable. The secret to your success is how much you cater to your own needs versus how much you decide to forgo your own selfish needs for the joy of others. Uh oh.

**VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)**  
 Balance is everything in this life, queer Virgo. So why is it that things have seemed a little tipsy for you recently. Worry no more; this week you find new ways to enlist help from partners to make your life more bearable and in control. If you are seeking a connection, this is the time to look! You are especially dreamy, creamy and delicious. Hurry before you curdle.

**LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)**  
 You may feel lazier than usual and this is okay. Proud Libras don't need to tear up the carpet to get into their groove. While the Sun is in Pisces you can find effective ways to de-stress and relax. Store up your energy reserves now so you can rev a few engines later. Find shortcuts at work and see if you can put off anything too unwieldy. Take a lunch break or five.

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# An Open Letter To The Community In Southern Arizona

I am writing to share with you some painful decisions we have had to make to ensure that Wingspan is here to provide critical, life-saving services to future generations and to ask for your continued support.

This economic recession is profoundly impacting individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits, including Wingspan. For example, contributions in December 2008 decreased by 75% compared to December 2007, and expected grant revenue is down by \$120,000, which is 25% of our annual grant budget.

Because of the recession, reduced income, and the potential for more state, county and city funding cuts, we had to take action.

Over the past three months, we laid off five staff members and implemented other cost-saving measures. I requested, and the board approved, a voluntary reduction in my salary of just over 25%, and every director-level staff member has taken a voluntary pay cut.

It is painful and heartbreaking to say goodbye to our friends and co-workers who have been a part of our daily lives here at Wingspan. It is also extremely disappointing to see some of our programs cut due to a lack of funding and subsequent staff capacity. We need to give ourselves the time and permission to work through those feelings and to support our community as best we can.

Wingspan is a 21-year-old southern Arizona institution that has touched countless lives, including my own, in very deep and meaningful ways. I was reminded of this at a recent reunion of over 25 former youth program participants that coincided with the open house of our new youth drop-in center location.

At the reunion, we laughed, applauded, and cried with each other, while sharing stories about how we found Wingspan's youth program, often after being rejected or made homeless by our families.

Through the friendships and mentorships developed during our time in the youth program, we came to love

and accept ourselves for who we are, and we began the often long healing process that can come from facing so much rejection, harassment and violence.

I am so grateful for that reunion, not only because of my personal experience, but also because it focused my attention on the life-saving impact of our programs.

My heart was filled by the love that Wingspan facilitates in the lives of countless people, a love that is then paid forward for generations in ways we may never know.

This is why the board and I are absolutely committed to making the strategic decisions necessary to ensure Wingspan is here for future generations.

Most of the remaining staff in our Antiviolence Programs, Youth and Fam-

ily Programs, Senior Programs, and the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) are funded by a variety of private, federal, state, county or city grants.

Many of those grants end on June 30, 2009, and it is too soon to tell whether they will be renewed, reduced, or cut completely. Additionally, keeping Wingspan open takes far more than the money provided by grants, which account for only a little over 50% of our budget.

We need our community now more than ever to come together to keep Wingspan running and to help weather the effects of this economic storm.

Right now, above all else, we need your financial support.

Any financial contribution you

can make, no matter how small, is extremely important at this critical moment in our history.

To make a donation, please visit our donation page, or call Nick Ray at (520)624-1779x113.

I am absolutely certain that we will come together in support of this incredible organization, and I am so grateful for your love, support, and generosity.

In service to our community,

Jason Cianciotto  
Executive Director - Wingspan

P.S. In honor of Wingspan's 21st birthday, why not give \$21 per month or even \$2,100 this year to ensure Wingspan is here to provide critical, life-saving services. For more information, call Nick Ray. Thank You!

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# Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

## Girl On A Boat (Second in a series)

"... The marina was fair-sized, harboring half-a-thousand boats, mostly masted sailers laying in shallow black water, slowly rotting at the waterline, the stays and turnbuckles rusting. The sun rotted sailcovers, halyards and curtains alike, exposure providing the only wear on the unused chariots. For most, it made no difference really; they had been cheaply made, for the occasional sailor who would put no demands on a boat beyond floating in the marina and rotting slowly away. Boats like these were stayed safe by virtue of experience; the rare person who gained the skills necessary to go to sea also gained a knowledge of boats along the way. Only a fool would take one of these Pretty Bettys to sea; only landsmen mourn the deaths of fools. At sea the happy event can seldom come too soon, for fools endanger all around them and are often kept foolish by virtue of an arrogance that is proof against all efforts to educate. The older fellow who had let them in kept a casual watch on them. The empty boats all belonged to men he felt some small kinship with; he kept them secure as far as he could. There were a some that he wished were his own; larger, more commodious rigs that he foolishly imagined would carry enough appeal to draw a woman into his life. The women he dreamed of existed, but not in the first world. He would have to grow courage enough to enter the Third World to meet them. And buy a better boat; he had learned the sad truth of his own little factory boat and he was not fool enough take it to sea.

The young people had gone over to the boat they had indicated where there was a young lady he had seen often at night in the marina. She was an oddity; the kind of thing a fellow hoped for. But she was one of a kind and too young to offer company; he had satisfied himself with watching her, protectively, as he did all the beautiful

things in the marina. He appreciate beauty; *therefore*, he thought, do I live on the river; it is for the beauty of the water, the breath of God that comes on the night wind that holds me here, even alone.

Even a thirty-two footer has a little room on deck; his was crowded with a glassed-in cockpit, complete with wheel and pilot's seat. He settled into it and opened the sack of fast-food he had carried with him. It was not quite barbeque and sleep-over, but it would keep body and soul together another night, at least.

The couple had reached the girl on the boat and been happily receive; this was a hopeful ploy. The boat served the same purpose for the girls that the older fellow had hoped for, but for them it was working. Kind of working. The girl on the boat was catching the cooler, thermos and blankets her girlfriend handed over the black water at dock's edge and into the boat. They both watched the young man surreptitiously as they did it; he had been cajoled into submitting himself to this test. They wanted to know what sort of fellow he was; he had been attentive to them both in the way of males of the time; with banter, innuendo and flattery. Invitations to dinner, movies and other spectator kinds of entertainment were common, but no young men seemed to do anything interesting. Or rather, they only did interesting things with other young men; things that were designed to prove toughness without unduly extending oneself. There were short little basketball games, tennis courts and golf, bicycle rides through the wilds of the cities parks and daring excursions to nearby lakes to risk life and limb riding wave runners and skiboats. The worst sort of danger.

To be continued ...

## New York City Launches Facebook Page

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The New York City health department has launched a page and application on the social networking website Facebook in an effort to promote safer-sex awareness and condom use in the city, HIV Plus Magazine reported.

The application on the site allows registered users to send out messages to other Facebook members called "e-condoms," which include information about condom use and encourage the recipients to practice safer sex. More than 6,500 "e-condom" messages had been sent. "By using Facebook, we can help millions of people spread the word about

condoms," Monica Sweeney, assistant city health commissioner for HIV prevention and control, told The New York Times.

The Facebook page also includes information about HIV's impact in New York City, including the facts that the city has more HIVers than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, and Washington, D.C., combined; that one of every 25 men in Manhattan is HIV-positive; and that one of every four Gay and Bisexual men living in the city's Chelsea neighborhood is HIV-positive. The city's Facebook page can be seen at [facebook.com/pages/New-York-NY/NYC-Condom-Get-Some/44933063519](http://facebook.com/pages/New-York-NY/NYC-Condom-Get-Some/44933063519).

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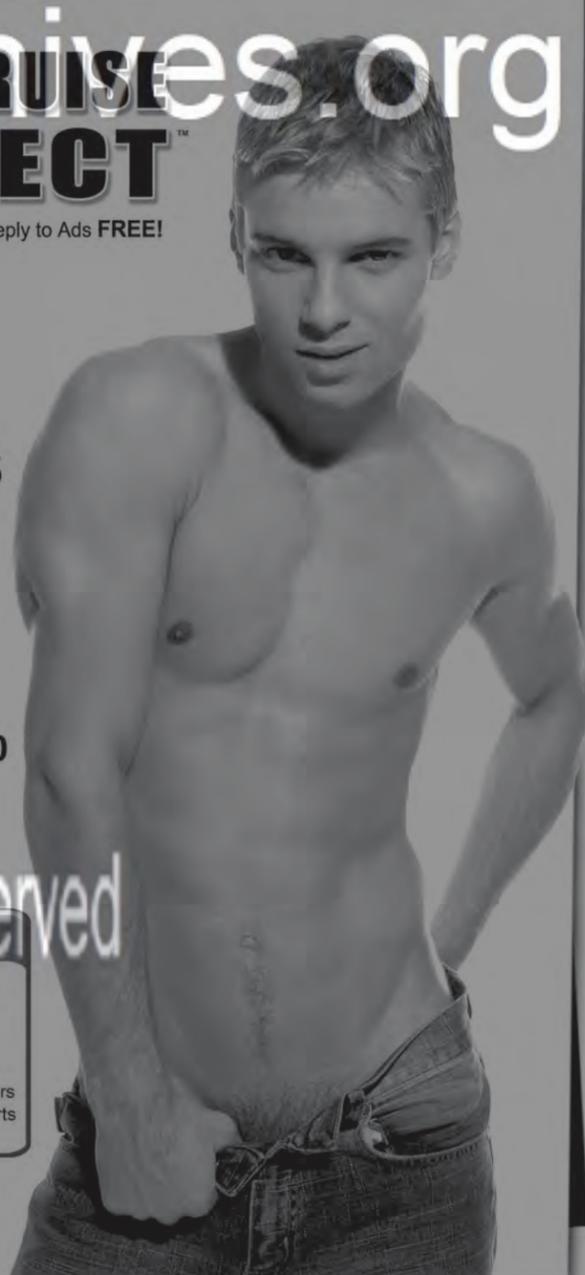
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# Hither And Yon

## Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

### Go Ahead 'n Ask . . . But It Ain't Gone Yet

Some of you, in complimenting me on last week's column (sincere thanks to all of you who did, by the way), described it as a premature obituary for Hatred. It wasn't. I said Hatred was on its last legs, but anything on any legs is highly unlikely to be dead.

In last week's print edition, this column appeared on Page 12. On Page 9, you saw a piece about the sentencing of an out-of-work truck driver for firing three blasts of a sawed-off shotgun into the audience of a production of the musical Annie in Knoxville, Tennessee, last July 28th. Two people were killed and six others injured. The murderer would love for me to identify him by name. So I won't.

I will, however, identify the location of the murder, as that leads us to the point of this piece. It was the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. It has been one of the main gathering places in Eastern Tennessee for those who consider themselves liberal, either socially or theologically. It was a desire "to kill liberals" that led the murderer to attack the church. In television coverage of the sentencing, the murderer showed a perverse pride in what he'd done. Remorse wasn't present at all.

Last Monday, as he was sentenced, the Knoxville News-Sentinel published the handwritten "manifesto" of the murderer, which he had left in his apartment with the expectation that police would shoot him at the scene of the attack. (In fact, several members of the audience subdued the murderer before police arrived.) Among other items police report finding in his apartment was a book by "Michael Savage" titled Liberalism is a Mental Health Disorder.

The "manifesto" has four basic parts to it. First, the murderer laments his unemployed status, and immediately blames it on liberal Democrats. Among his complaints: "[Democrats] are all a bunch of traitors...Liberals have attacked every major institution that made America great...I've always wondered why I was put on the earth...lately I've been feeling helpless in our war on terrorism. But I realized I could engage the terrorists' allies here in America. The best allies they've got." In Part Two he rails against the church he shot up. He assails the Unitarian Universalist denomination as a "cult" that "worships the God of Secularism" and a "den of un-American vipers" who accept "perverts" but hate "conservatives." By "perverts," it's likely he meant the usual readership of the Observer and papers like it; by "conservatives," it's likely he means characters like himself (who, as Barry Goldwater could have told you, are far from actual conservatives). This section ends with the words "environmental nuts have to be stopped."

The next page opens with the statements, "Know This if Nothing Else...This was a hate Crime...This was a Political Protest." Here, he rants against "liberal Supreme Court Justices" and "Osama Hussein Obama," the latter in disgustingly racist terms. "This was a Symbolic Killing...I wanted to kill every Democrat in the Senate...[as well as] everyone in the Mainstream Media...I couldn't get to the generals and high ranking officers...so I went after the foot soldiers, the [expletive deleted] liberals that vote in these traitorous people."

Part Four, even after all this, is the topper: "No one gets out of this world

alive so I've chosen to skip the bad years of poverty. I know my life is going downhill fast...So I thought I'd do something good for this Country and kill Democrats 'til the cops kill me...Liberals are a pest like termites... the only way we can rid ourselves of this evil is kill them in the streets...I'd like to encourage other like-minded people to do what I've done. If life ain't worth living anymore, don't just kill yourself... kill liberals. Tell the cop that killed me that I said, Thanks, I needed that."

Hitler's Mein Kampf read like Oscar Wilde compared to this nut.

But this nut was exactly the kind of audient Michael Weiner, whose air pseudonym is "Michael Savage," wants. Anyone who has heard his program - run in Tucson every weeknight for six consecutive hours, three live on Journal's KQTH-FM 104.1 and then three in repeat on ChumpChannel's KNST-AM 790 - recognizes that this murderer's rhetoric is lifted directly from Weiner/"Savage" and his fellow far-right propagandists, which fill the schedules of three stations in this city (don't forget Salem's KVOI-AM 690 is here, too).

It has come time for the people of Tucson to tell these stations and their sponsors that we have no intention of sampling these wares anymore, and we will most likely have to boycott those stations and advertisers until they actually pull their money out of hate radio.

I have a blog at [kingdaavid.blog.de](http://kingdaavid.blog.de) at which I will occasionally post a listing of the sponsors who advertise on these stations in random hours each day, beginning today (Wednesday, February the 18th). And it won't be just The Savage Weiner I'll pay attention to; "Jon Justice" and whichever fool KQTH replaces Bill O'Reilly with soon will be part of it as well. I hope there will be some of you who will join me in developing this boycott. The problem is not actual conservatism, it's hardcore hatred masquerading as conservatism. And its perpetrators have to be called on it before some Limbot starts shooting into OUR churches, regardless of denomination.

A tip of the hat to Prof. Mark Hulsether of the University of Tennessee, whose blog posting at [religiondispatches.org](http://religiondispatches.org) was liberally quoted in this column.



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I am asking for a \$300 security deposit and references, just so it protects BOTH of us. Music and movies are my source of entertainment; it would be great if they were for you too. Please note, I will respect your privacy and you may come and go as you please. I'm an average guy when it comes to cleaning, so I guess that means I prefer a house that looks lived in, rather than a museum. So along those lines -

You are an adult, and I'm not your mother, so you are expected to clean up after yourself. I value my home and ask that you do too. So if you're interested in meeting, hit me back. Available starting the week of 03/01/09, a 6 to 12 month arrangement is preferred, but all offers will be considered. I look forward to sharing my home with you!

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**Preparing For Your Financial Future**

by Dan Kalm, State Farm« Agent

When most of us think of investing, we immediately think of investing for retirement. While that is an important aspect to be considered, there are other pieces of the puzzle that are also important. Establishing a budget, investing early and regularly, and saving for post-secondary education should also be considered.

**Establish a budget**

Establishing a budget is a great first step in planning your finances. A budget is a useful tool for recording all of your income and expenses. By writing down how much money you earn and spend each month, you can see where your money is going. This will assist you in being able to prioritize your expenses and needs. Any money left over can be used for saving and investing. Even a small amount of money invested regularly can help. Invest early and regularly, even small amounts

One reason to start a regular investment program early is to give your money as much time as possible to grow through compounding. If you haven't started investing yet, then consider starting now and getting into the habit. Just remember that the amounts you invest do not have to be large, especially if the money is taken directly out of each paycheck. You will be surprised how little you miss money you don't see. If you're already investing every month, look for ways to contribute more through bonuses and monetary gifts.

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# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, please contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or [bcassey@umcaz.edu](mailto:bcassey@umcaz.edu)

**TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)**  
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**P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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**TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL**

For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

**WINGSPAN** - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

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**LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON** - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP** - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

**T-SQUARES** Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit [www.azgaydance.org](http://www.azgaydance.org)

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**DESERT VOICES**, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 20 seasons. Check out our website at [www.desertvoices.org](http://www.desertvoices.org), or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT**. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

**AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus**, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. All alcoholics welcome.

**MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK:** Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 207-5336 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

**CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE** to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS** and updates on Gay Games, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://teamarizona.org)

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT**, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. [www.tucsonglbtchamber.org](http://www.tucsonglbtchamber.org)

**TUCSON PRIDE, INC.** (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at [www.tucsonpride.com](http://www.tucsonpride.com)

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**ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING** is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

**SMART** (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

**THIS WAY OUT**, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m. on Sundays only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

**THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC!** Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or [joycesmth1@aol.com](mailto:joycesmth1@aol.com). The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA)**. The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779x26 for more info.

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES.** Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

**ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA)** seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

**DESERT DOMINION**, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site <http://www.desertdominion.org> or call (520)792-6424

**SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS.** Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

**GLSEN** - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. 743-4800.

**SAA** (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

**TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION.** Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

**LUTHERANS CONCERNED** - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit [www.lctucson.org](http://www.lctucson.org) or write: Lutherans Concerned/Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

**REVELLE MEN'S CHORUS** rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Join us!! For info call 304-1758

**LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group.** Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

**LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment.** Call Megan at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 116. Services are free.

**MEN'S HIKING CLUB** - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to [SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com). See you on the trails.

**MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP** (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

**THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY.** Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson,

**NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS** meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.:

**TUCSON M2M** - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M>

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\*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m. or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.  
\*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

**DAILY BAR CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY**

THE BIZ - 'L' Word showing 7pm & 9:30pm (Progressive drink specials) - First: \$3 Well; Second: \$1.50 pints. Last Special is 2-4-1. Following L Word, Out Loud Open Mic. If you have talent join our open night mic - Starts 10:45 pm.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - \$1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; \$2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt.

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust \$2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, \$3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping HIV/AIDS clients with their Veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open Noon - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

**MONDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. EDAN...Exotic dancer appreciation night. DJ spins Hip Hop & R&B and all request dance. \$5.25 drink specials.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o' Beer - \$10 Domestic, \$12 Imports (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. SKYY Matinis \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**TUESDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close Come play our Wii gaming system. Beer Pong Tournament w/cash prizes starts 9pm.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Dart Tournament, 7pm \$3 entry fee/Pot Match.

WOODY'S - Open noon- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioscas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**WEDNESDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. \$7 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm \$2.50/Pitcher.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - \$1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with \$1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**THURSDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,\$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Boyz Nite Out - boys pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. Bicardi Thursdays - \$3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am..

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day \*\*FREE POOL\*\*, \$1.00 PBR Longnecks, \$2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7

**FRIDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour UNTIL 8. Hip Hop & R&B. Drink Specials all night called out by DJs. Special Performances.

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

**SATURDAY**

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Starting Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Escandalo Saturdays w/Carnival Latino. Latin Hip Hop, Top 40s & Reggaeton music will be spun. Guest DJs. \$5 Cover. oGo dancers male and female. Shot specials allnight. .

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. \$5.00 cheeseburger & fries. \$3.00 Cuervo and \$4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm - 2am VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust \$2.25/Pitcher. 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

**BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events**

Thursday, February 19  
WOODY'S - 10:00 p.m. Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue" an extravaganza of Female Illusionists.

Saturday, February 21  
THE BIZ - Hot Flash Dance 5:30 p.m.

WOODY'S - Budweiser Family Promo Night 11p.m. - 12:30p.m.

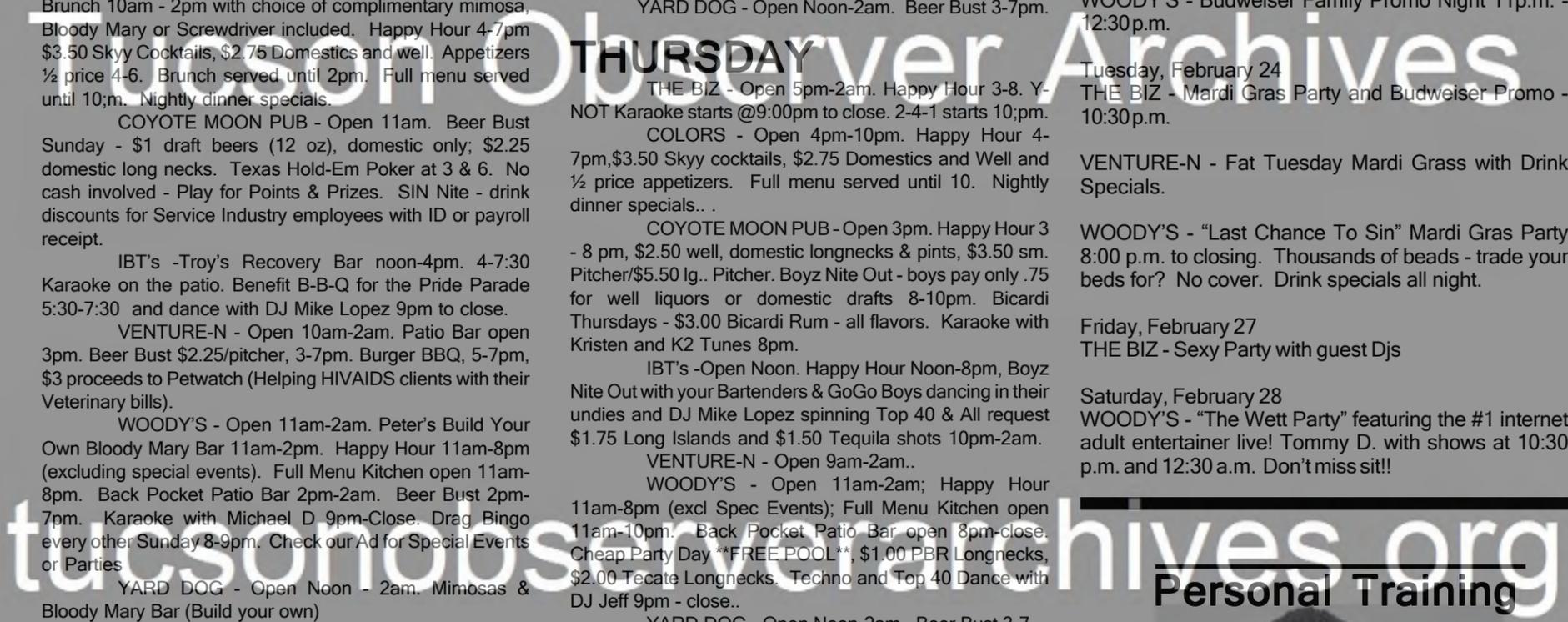
Tuesday, February 24  
THE BIZ - Mardi Gras Party and Budweiser Promo - 10:30p.m.

VENTURE-N - Fat Tuesday Mardi Grass with Drink Specials.

WOODY'S - "Last Chance To Sin" Mardi Gras Party 8:00 p.m. to closing. Thousands of beads - trade your beds for? No cover. Drink specials all night.

Friday, February 27  
THE BIZ - Sexy Party with guest Djs

Saturday, February 28  
WOODY'S - "The Wett Party" featuring the #1 internet adult entertainer live! Tommy D. with shows at 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Don't miss sit!!



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# COMMENTARY....

by Lisa Neff

## Learning Lincoln's Lesson

This time of year, being from the Land of Lincoln, I am reminded of my childhood studies. There is a story in my hometown — as there probably are Lincoln stories in most Illinois towns — that Lincoln once stayed in a hotel located just blocks from my grade school. The hotel is long gone, replaced by a drug store and then a tavern, but those of us who once attended North Elementary still drive past the corner and repeat the short "Abe Lincoln slept there..." tale.

I was schooled on the legend and the history of Lincoln: Young Abe and railsplittin' Abe, candidate Lincoln and President Lincoln. Like many Illinois schoolchildren, I memorized his speeches, read the biographies, visited his home in Springfield. The speech recited year after year, in grade after grade, was his Gettysburg address. In the earliest grades, we dressed as Lincoln with top hats and beards made of construction paper and earned Es for "excellence" if we got past "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

In later grades, we earned marks for noticing the literary devices, diagramming the sentences, and, most importantly, understanding the meaning of each sentence. And, in those older grades, we analyzed the nation's political, social and cultural advances on equality as we studied Lincoln's unenlightened remarks: "There must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race. I say upon this occasion I do not perceive that because the white man is to have the superior position the negro should be denied everything."

Schoolchildren in the "Land of Lincoln" have learned about equality year after year after year, in grade after grade after grade. And yet, this time of year, with the commemoration of Lincoln's birthday, I am reminded of how many children grow up and forget what they learned about equality. I have

conversations with friends and extended family, colleagues and neighbors, and what I hear over and over again is an expressed fear that achieving equality will result in those who have, having less. We are schooled on the value of equality, but we grow up to strive for privilege, we want more than the next person, and think we are better if we have while others have not. We regress to that time seven score and 11 years ago when it was commonly held, as Lincoln said, "there must be the position of superior and inferior."

Adults think in these terms when it comes to commodities, from McIntosh apples to Apple MacBooks. And adults think in these terms when it comes to rights and benefits. It's important to understand this as we continue our push for equality — the state of being equal in status, rights and opportunities. We need to address the true fear people have — the fear is not that same-sex marriage threatens the foundation of American society, but that extending marriage rights to more people, Gay people, existing marriages have less value, less meaning.

We need to remind people of the lessons they learned about equality, that we cannot have equality when we legalize exclusion from rights and benefits. We need to point out that there is not a limited number of a certain right to go around and no one is going to come up short. We need to point out to people that a straight person's marriage is not devalued because a Gay person also is married.

Evan Wolfson, a longtime leader in the push for the freedom to marry, points to a time when women were barred from practicing law, but that eventually the nation moved past that exclusionary law and "the sky didn't fall." Nor did a lawyer cease to be a lawyer. And when same-sex marriage is legal in the 50 states and the territories, when the federal Defense of Marriage Act is repealed, marriage will not cease to be marriage.

(Lisa Neff is a columnist for 365Gay.com from which this is reprinted.)

## LGBT- Inclusive Retreat, Ex-Gay Conference To Be Held Just Days Apart

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Observer Update) - For a few days next week, Charlotte, N.C., will play host to two fundamentally opposed conferences, both concerning LGBT people, advocate.com reported. First, the 2009 Leadership Retreat, cosponsored by Unity Fellowship and the Metropolitan Community Church, will be held February 18-21. The Leadership Retreat is focused on the idea that "God is love and love is for everyone," and the two Christian groups sponsoring the retreat are known for their inclusiveness of LGBT people within their communities and their ministries.

Ironically, the day that retreat ends, a second group will be setting up camp for a few days in Charlotte. Focus on the Family will be holding its "ex-Gay" Love Won Out Conference beginning February 21. Love Won Out preaches the idea that those struggling with same-sex attractions are facing a challenge to convert to heterosexuality, and that through prayer, Gay desires can be overcome. Not only will the conference have an audience in Charlotte, Focus

on the Family has paid for the event to be aired on GOD TV, giving the message a national audience, according to a press release from the opposing group Truth Wins Out.

LGBT people as well as many allies are outraged at the "ex-Gay" group's conference and the national television attention it will garner. Citizens of Charlotte in particular have chosen to take action at the grassroots level to express their disapproval of the Love Won Out message. The Charlotte Rainbow Action Network for Equality as planned a full week of events, beginning February 14, leading up to the Focus on the Family conference. The concern of CRANE, as well as other Gay rights groups and activists, is that the presence of an "ex-Gay" conference sends a potentially damaging message to children and LGBT people in Charlotte and across the country.

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